



Mission Interpretation

Telling stories of our hands doing God's work

Mission Memo #571

Sept.6, 2022



The grumbling of the religious leaders in today's gospel is actually our holy hope: This Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. That our God seeks and saves the lost is not only a holy hope, it is our only hope. As the writer of 1 Timothy reminds us, "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Thanks be to God.

Readings

- [Exodus 32:7-14](#) - *Moses begs the Lord to turn from anger against the Hebrews*
- [Psalm 51:1-10](#) - *Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love. (Ps. 51:1)*
- [1 Timothy 1:12-17](#) - *Christ Jesus came for sinners*
- [Luke 15:1-10](#) - *Looking for the lost sheep, silver coin: Jesus eating with sinners*

Lost and Found

Today's readings give witness that God has a heart for losers. God reconciles with the idol-worshipping people of Israel. The risen Lord calls the violent, blasphemous persecutor, Paul. The faithful shepherd rescues the wandering sheep and carries it home. The woman who lost one of her ten silver coins searches for it until she finds it. Similarly, God doesn't abandon people even when people abandon God. The cross and resurrection testify to God's faithfulness in that regard. God rescues strays one by one, making the first move to find the lost and create new hearts in them. When (in the first reading) Moses holds God to promises already made in the covenant, the breathtaking picture emerges of a God so committed to relationship that God is influenced—changed—by what people need and ask. This faithfulness of God, shared with overflowing grace in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus, is patient, forgiving, energetic, and ready to celebrate. Take the bread and cup—Jesus hosts the worshiping assembly again this week to welcome sinners and eat with them! Suddenly, "sinner" is no longer the best name for us. Try "guest," "graced," "gifted," "loved," and "empowered." Then it's time to follow Jesus out of the gathered assembly and into the world as apprentice sleuths for missing

persons, bent on finding the lost and the broken and giving them an invitation to come home.

Advocacy Connections

Advocacy Cafe brings people together to share stories and raise our insights and concerns. Grab a cup and join us!

There's no shortage of ways we and our congregations *can* and *do* get involved in civic engagement around the electoral process. As a church, we do not endorse a particular candidate, party or form of government or strive for a Christian one. Yet in Lutheran teaching, one way God works to preserve creation and build a more peaceful and just social order in a broken world is through government. Bring your experience, new or seasoned, and your questions. Our Christian faith compels us to attend to the world through the lens of our relationship to God and to one another.



FUTURE #ELCAADVOCACYCAFE SESSIONS

- September 27 - "Bringing Down Barriers to Voting"
- October 25 - "Can Talking Politics Be Healthy?"

Advocacy Cafe is held on the last Tuesday of each month - pick a day (1 pm ET) or evening (8 pm ET) session that fits your schedule. Register from <https://blogs.elca.org/advocacy/advocacy-cafe/>.

Congregations harness larger communities to multiply impact for Ukraine relief

Since the start of the Ukrainian conflict in late February, Lutheran congregations across the U.S. have come together in creative and collaborative ways to provide



relief and support to those fleeing violence a world away. The love and concern of these congregations have brought together not only their church communities but their larger communities as well. [Lutheran World Relief](#) highlights just three of these congregations. We hope that the conviction and compassion these churches have for our Ukrainian neighbors will serve as an inspiration to you and your congregations. Click on the link for each story.

[Reformation Lutheran Church in Media, Pennsylvania](#) | [St. Martin's Lutheran Church in Austin, Texas](#) | [Trinity Lutheran Church in Long Lake, Minnesota](#)

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday is Sunday, September 11, 2022.

This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America - one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in

Jesus Christ - every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life - flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace. [Click here](#) for more information.



Travel with Lutherdale



Lutherdale has over 19 years of experience planning and leading travel trips. They contract with bus companies they know and trust, work with a professional tour company and select trips that offer a variety of experiences. Come and learn about the overnight, full day, and destination trips planned for 2023 at Lutherdale's Travel Ministry Luncheon on November 2 from 10 AM - 1 PM! Participants will have the exclusive opportunity to sign up for trips before registration opens. The \$20 luncheon includes a presentation on trips and a delicious meal prepared by Chef Robin.

[Check out the monthly news](#)

	Event/Activity	Resources
Sept 11, 2022	"God's work. Our hands." Sunday A Day of Service	ELCA.org/DayofService
Sept 16-18, 2022	ELCA Mission Interpreter Gathering in Winston-Salem, NC.	Learn more and register at: https://demdsynod.org/elca-mission-interpreter-fall-2022-gathering/
Oct 15, 2022 8:30 to 2:30	Metro Chicago Synodical Women's Organization Annual Meeting, "We are one - putting pieces together" Trinity Lutheran Church, 3637 Golf Rd, Evanston, IL	Registration form below or go to https://mcseica.org/swo-convention-2022/



Registration for 2022 SWO Convention "We Are One: Putting Pieces Together"

October 15, 2022, Trinity Lutheran Church
3637 Golf Road Evanston, IL 60203
(847) 673-8564



This form is to be used by both voting members and participants. Please duplicate as needed. All are welcome to attend even if you do not have a women's organization in your congregation. Check-in will begin at 8:30 am with coffee and treats available.

Voting Member INFORMATION: Each congregation is to choose one woman who is willing to prayerfully participate in the business meeting and be willing to share information and inspiration from the day with her congregation. She will sit in the Voting Member Section during the business meeting.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

CONGREGATION NAME & CITY

YOUR NAME:

HOME ADDRESS:

STREET

CITY

STATE

ZIP

PHONE

EMAIL

ARE YOU A Voting member?: Y____ N____

PAYMENT AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

Registration Fee

\$30.00 – Registration received on or before **September 24**

\$35.00 – Registration received after **September 24**

\$40.00 – **Registration at the door**

Need a scholarship? Please email Carol at mcswores@gmail.com by September 1.

I have enclosed my registration and \$_____ to assist someone else.

Lunch will be served, please note any special dietary requests.

Vegetarian ____ Gluten free ____ Dairy free ____ Other _____

Sandwich: Turkey-cheddar ____ Roast Beef-Swiss ____ Veggie Caprese ____

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete the registration form above.

Register on line at <https://mcselca.org/swo-convention-2022/> OR

Mail registration form and check (made out to Metro Chicago SWO) to Sandie Schlauch, 7803 Palma Lane, Morton Grove, IL 60053 no Later than October 8

In-Kind Donations of non-perishable food items are being requested for **Connections for the Homeless, Evanston**. Suggested items include socks, toiletries (travel and regular size), shelf stable foods. Any additional questions email Carol at mcswores@gmail.com.